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SOME POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS FOR THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

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Introduction

The purpose of the present document is to review some population data for the English-speaking Caribbean.*/ It is complementary to the study entitled "The demographic situation of Latin America as evaluated in 1983: Estimates for 1960-1980 and projections for 1980-2025" (E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB.2/L.2), which refers to 20 Latin American countries: the 18 Spanish-speaking countries, Brazil and Haiti.**/

At the end of 1979, thanks to the support given by the Government of the United Kingdom, which financed the post of a demographer, CELADE started its activities in the English-speaking Caribbean. Since then work has been done in the field of technical assistance for population censuses, especially in formulatin the tabulations plan, and it is hoped to collaborate with the countries of the area in the near future in the analysis of census results. Furthermore, to facilitate the joint work of CELADE and the demographers of the area, an intensive course of training in demography was organized and held in 1983.

The population estimates, projections and indicators presented here were prepared by the United Nations Population Division in 1981. The figures selected seem to be the most relevant, and as far as possible correspond to those shown for 20 Latin American countries in the document E/CEPAL/CEGAN/POB.2/L.2.

1. Population growth

In 1980 the population of the English-speaking Caribbean numbered 6.3 million, and accounted for 1.8% of the total population of Latin America. It had increased by 43% since 1960, when it had been 4.4 million.

According to one of the hypotheses on fertility (the medium hypothesis), this growth rate will diminish with the passage of time and population figures for the English-speaking Caribbean as a whole will reach about 8.5 and 11.2 million in the years 2000 and 2025, respectively. (See table 1.)

Because of its slower growth, the population of the English-speaking Caribbean will gradually decline in magnitude relatively to that of Latin America, of which it will come to represent 1.6% and 1.4% in the years 2000 and 2025, respectively.

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*/ Included under this head are: Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the Netherlands Antilles, Montserrat and St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, as well as four territories (Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands and United States Virgin Islands).

**/ For the purposes of the present study, these countries will henceforth be referred to as "Latin America".

/Table 1

Table 1

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN: ESTIMATES OF TOTAL POPULATION FOR 1960 AND 1980 AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2000 AND 2025, ACCORDING TO THREE FERTILITY HYPOTHESES (HIGH, MEDIUM AND LOW)

(Thousands of persons)

Countries	Estimates		Projections					
			2000			2025		
	1960	1980	High hypothesis	Medium hypothesis	Low hypothesis	High hypothesis	Medium hypothesis	Low hypothesis
Antigua	55	75	113	108	101	154	143	128
Bahamas	113	241	361	344	322	493	456	409
Barbados	231	263	324	320	312	388	381	366
Belize	92	162	234	234	234	268	268	268
Dominica	59	83	117	108	99	171	152	133
Grenada	89	111	154	142	130	225	200	175
Guyana	538	883	1 287	1 237	1 196	1 712	1 620	1 544
Jamaica	1 629	2 188	3 190	2 872	2 807	4 470	3 764	3 611
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	79	97	135	124	114	198	175	154
	93	118	166	153	141	244	216	190
Suriname	290	388	758	698	668	1 284	1 097	1 007
Trinidad and Tobago	843	1 168	1 513	1 483	1 473	1 844	1 789	1 770
Netherlands Antilles	192	256	383	366	342	524	485	434
Montserrat	12	11	16	15	14	22	20	18
St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla	57	74	111	106	99	151	140	125
Subtotal	4 372	6 118	8 862	8 310	8 052	12 148	10 906	10 332
Territories								
British Virgin Islands	32	111	166	158	148	227	210	188
Cayman Islands	7	14	21	20	18	28	26	23
Turks and Caicos Islands	8	17	26	24	23	35	32	29
United States Virgin Islands	6	6	8	8	8	11	11	10
Total	4 425	6 266	9 083	8 520	8 249	12 449	11 185	10 582

/2. Fertility

2. Fertility

Tables 2 and 3 show the number of births per year, annual birth rates and total fertility rates. Our observations will be confined to these two last-named indicators.

In the recent past (1960-1965), the annual birth rate in the English-speaking Caribbean fluctuated between 30 and 40 live births per thousand and was lower than that noted in the Latin American countries, most of which recorded figures exceeding 44 per thousand. More illustrative and more legitimate is a comparison between total fertility rates. In the English-speaking Caribbean this rate showed smaller differences between the various countries and territories, and attained lower figures than those observed in the Latin American countries.

According to the medium hypothesis on future fertility trends, it is expected that in the five-year period 1980-1985 the total fertility rate will have decreased significantly in most of the countries and territories of the English-speaking Caribbean (by between 30 and 60%). It is assumed that towards the end of the century the decline will be less marked, and that in some cases the rate will be stabilized. A total fertility rate of 2.1 in the year 2025 is projected for the area.

3. Mortality

Table 4 gives the figures for annual mortality rates and expectation of life at birth, for both sexes. In these figures, too, greater homogeneity in the English-speaking Caribbean than in Latin America is observable. As regards the expectation of life at birth, the comparison is once again favourable to the English-speaking Caribbean: it is estimated that today most of these countries and territories have attained, or are very close to attaining, an expectation of life at birth as high as 70 years, whereas for the majority of the Latin American countries figures of 70 years or over are expected only at the beginning of the next century.

4. International migration

Although for want of information a table presenting data on this variable has not been included, there can be no doubt that it is of outstanding importance in the subregion under discussion. It is worth while to draw attention to the on-going efforts to improve knowledge of international migration, among them inter-country exchanges of census data and, in particular, a research project on international migration of Latin Americans (Investigación sobre Migraciones Internacionales de Latinoamericanos - IMILA), and the trying-out of indirect methods of measuring emigration. These methods and the advances they have made were examined at a seminar organized by CELADE in Barbados from 19 to 21 May 1982, and their application was illustrated with data collected in the course of a survey carried out in that country.

/Table 2

Table 2

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN: ANNUAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS, ESTIMATED (1960-1965) AND PROJECTED (1980-1985, 1995-2000 AND 2020-2025), ACCORDING TO THREE HYPOTHESES (HIGH, MEDIUM AND LOW) ON FUTURE FERTILITY TRENDS

(Thousands)

	Estimates	Projections								
	1960-1965	1980-1985			1995-2000			2020-2025		
		High hyp.	Medium hyp.	Low hyp.	High hyp.	Medium hyp.	Low hyp.	High hyp.	Medium hyp.	Low hyp.
Barbados	7	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Jamaica	67	71	60	56	70	54	54	71	55	52
Trinidad and Tobago	34	27	25	24	26	24	25	26	25	24
Windward Islands a/	14	16	15	14	14	12	10	14	12	10
Others b/	17	26	24	22	27	23	19	26	23	19
Subtotal	139	146	129	121	142	118	113	142	120	110
Guyana	25	29	26	24	25	23	22	26	24	22
Suriname	14	19	17	17	25	21	19	24	20	18
Subtotal	39	48	43	41	50	44	41	50	44	40
Total	178	194	172	162	192	162	154	192	164	150

a/ Includes: Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

b/ Includes: Antigua, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands.

/Table 3

Table 3

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN: ANNUAL BIRTH RATE AND GLOBAL FERTILITY RATE, ESTIMATED FOR 1960-1965 AND PROJECTED (MEDIUM HYPOTHESIS) FOR 1980-1985, 1995-2000 AND 2020-2025

(Per thousand)

	Annual birth rate				Total fertility rate			
	Estimated	Projected			Estimated	Projected		
	1960-1965	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025	1960-1965	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025
Barbados	29.6	19.1	16.9	13.8	4.1	2.0	2.1	2.1
Jamaica	39.3	26.3	19.5	15.0	5.4	3.3	2.1	2.1
Trinidad and Tobago	37.0	20.7	16.5	13.9	4.9	2.3	2.0	2.1
Windward Islands a/	43.1	35.7	23.2	16.1	6.3	4.4	2.6	2.1
Others b/	33.2	28.3	20.8	15.5	4.5	3.4	2.5	2.1
Guyana	43.9	27.9	19.4	14.9	6.5	3.2	2.2	2.1
Suriname	44.0	41.1	31.8	18.9	6.6	5.7	3.7	2.1

a/ Includes: Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

b/ Includes: Antigua, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands.

/Table 4

Table 4

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN: ANNUAL MORTALITY RATE AND EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT BIRTH, ESTIMATED FOR 1960-1965 AND PROJECTED FOR 1980-1985, 1995-2000 AND 2020-2025

(Per thousand)

	Annual mortality rate				Expectation of life at birth			
	Estimated	Projected			Estimated	projected		
	1960-1965	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025	1960-1965	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025
Barbados	9.7	8.5	7.7	8.9	66.0	71.1	72.9	75.2
Jamaica	9.1	6.4	6.0	6.5	65.8	71.2	72.8	75.0
Trinidad and Tobago	7.3	6.0	6.4	8.8	65.8	70.0	72.6	75.2
Windward Islands a/	11.6	6.5	4.4	5.1	60.6	69.5	72.9	75.5
Others b/	7.3	6.2	5.5	6.9	64.4	70.2	72.6	75.2
Guyana	8.9	5.2	5.0	6.9	62.4	70.5	72.5	75.0
Suriname	10.3	6.1	3.9	3.3	61.5	68.8	72.3	74.9

a/ Includes: Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

b/ Includes: Antigua, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands.

/5. Composition

5. Composition of the population by age groups

In table 5 figures are given on population distribution by major age groups (under 15 years, from 15 to 64 years and 65 years and over), estimated for 1960-1965 and projected for 1980-1985, 1995-2000 and 2020-2025.

In the recent past, a very young population structure was observable, with 42 to 48% under 15 years of age; only Barbados recorded a lower percentage, i.e., 38%. This characteristic is still maintained at the present time, notwithstanding that sizeable reductions in the proportion of young population are expected. The most significant changes are predicted for the end of the century, when in most of the countries and territories of the English-speaking Caribbean the under-15 age group will account for less than 25%. An exception to the rule is Suriname, which in 1980-1985 will still have a high proportion of young population (51%).

By the last quinquennium of the projection, the proportion of the population under 15 years of age will drop to percentages ranging from 20 to 25%.

The characteristics of the population ageing process through time can also be studied in the light of the proportion of the population over 65 years of age, although obviously the effect of a reduction in fertility, the most important determinant of the process in question, takes longer to produce significant increases in the proportion of old people, as is clearly exemplified in the situation of Suriname.

/Table 5

Table 5

ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN: COMPOSITION OF POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS, ESTIMATED FOR 1960-1965 AND PROJECTED FOR 1980-1985, 1995-2000 AND 2020-2025

(Percentages)

	Under 15 years of age				15-64 years of age				65 years of age and over			
	Estimated	Projected			Estimated	Projected			Estimated	Projected		
	1960-1965	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025	1960-1965	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025	1960-1965	1980-1985	1995-2000	2020-2025
Barbados	38.1	28.9	23.9	20.1	55.2	62.2	68.2	65.4	6.7	8.9	7.9	14.5
Jamaica	41.7	40.6	28.3	21.8	54.0	53.4	65.4	69.7	4.3	6.0	6.2	8.6
Trinidad and Tobago	43.0	32.9	24.5	20.3	53.0	62.4	68.7	66.4	4.0	4.7	6.8	13.2
Windward Islands a/	43.3	43.8	33.1	23.2	50.2	51.2	63.0	69.0	6.5	5.0	4.0	7.9
Others b/	42.5	38.0	29.7	22.4	52.9	56.9	64.9	68.0	4.6	5.1	5.5	9.7
Guyana	48.4	40.1	28.2	21.7	48.2	56.0	66.9	68.0	3.4	3.9	4.9	10.3
Suriname	47.6	51.3	43.8	25.5	48.3	44.6	52.6	70.9	4.1	4.0	3.6	3.6

a/ Includes: Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

b/ Includes: Antigua, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands.